

Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

SR-02 ORM-03 SS-15 NSC-10 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 SCA-01

SCSE-00 USIA-12 RSR-01 /189 W
----- 090992

R 311957 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8216

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUACHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 2044

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: AORG, UN, SWEL

SUBJ: SAHELIAN ZONE DROUGHT

REF: (A) USUN 1983; (B) USUN 2045

1. FOLLOWING ON PRESS RELEASE FORWARDED REF (A),
SYG ADDRESSED LETTER DATED MAY 29 TO ALL PERMREPS
TO UN DRAWING ATTENTION ECOSOC RES 1759(LIV) FORWARDED
REF (B) AND DG BOERMA APPEAL OF MAY 9 AS WELL AS
CONVEYING HIS PERSONAL CONCERN AND HOPE GOVERNMENTS
WOULD RESPOND GENEROUSLY.

2. TEXT SYG LETTER AS FOLLOWS:
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SIR,

AS YOU KNOW, SIX COUNTRIES BORDERING ON THE SOUTHERN REACHES
OF THE SAHARA DESERT - CHAD, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, SENEGAL
AND UPPER VOLTA - ARE SUFFERING FROM A DEVASTATING DROUGHT

WHICH HAS RESULTED FROM FOUR YEARS OF VERY LIMITED RAINFALL, THE EFFECT OF WHICH HAS BEEN THE CREATION OF A SITUATION WHERE HUMAN LIFE ITSELF IS SEVERELY THREATENED.

IN LIGHT OF THE CRITICAL SITUATION EXISTING IN THE SAHELIAN ZONE OF AFRICA, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, ON 18 MAY 1973, ADOPTED RESOLUTION 1759 (LIV), ENTITLED " AID TO THE SUDANO- SAHELIAN POPULATIONS THREATENED WITH FAMINE", A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW THIS RESOLUTION TO THE ATTENTION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 3, WHICH APPEALS TO STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO ASSIST IN THE PROMPT APPLICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES ADVOCATED BY THE DIRECTOR- GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, MR. ADDEKE H. BOERMA, WHOM I HAVE REQUESTED TO SERVE AS FOCAL POINT FOR UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES IN THE SAHELIAN ZONE.

IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE APPEAL MADE BY MR. BOERMA IN ROME ON 9 MAY 1973. MR. BOERMA HAS ASKED FOR \$15 MILLION IN CASH OR KIND TO COVER THE MOST URGENT EMERGENCY NEEDS OF THE AFFECTED AREA. THESE INCLUDE ANIMAL FEED AND VACCINE TO PREVENT THE DEPLETION OF HERDS VITAL TO NOMAD POPULATIONS, SEED - ESPECIALLY MILLET, SORGHUM AND MAIZE - FOR THE NEXT HARVEST AND EQUIPMENT FOR DEEPENING VILLAGE WELLS TO ENABLE VILLAGERS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE NEW HARVEST. IN ADDITION, HE APPEALED FOR AIRCRAFT CAPACITY FOR INLAND TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD SUPPLIES TO THE MORE REMOTE AREAS OF THE REGION. AN FAO SAHELIAN ZONE TRUST FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN ROME FOR CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH MAY BE RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THIS APPEAL.

MR. BOERMA HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL OFFICE IN ROME FOR THE SAHELIAN RELIEF OPERATION AND HAS ESTABLISHED IN OUAGADOUGOU, UPPER VOLTA, AN
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ADDITIONAL MECHANISM FOR ENSURING CO- OPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. IN ADDITION, MR. BOERMA HAS APPOINTED MR. RAYMOND SCHEYVEN, FORMER BELGIAN MINISTER OF CO- OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, AS HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR PROBLEMS OF THE SAHELIAN ZONE.

THE SITUATION IS CRITICAL AND TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. FOOD SUPPLIES MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE BY MID- JUNE, WHEN THE RAINY SEASON WILL MAKE MANY INTERNAL ROADS IMPASSABLE; SEEDS FOR PLANTING MUST BE PROVIDED BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON BEGINS AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT AND MOST DIFFICULT, TRANSPORTATION, BOTH BY GROUND AND AIR, MUST BE PROVIDED AND CO- ORDINATED. WITHOUT IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, IRREPARABLE LOSSES MAY OCCUR IN SOME REGIONS OF THESE

COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN HUMAN LIVES.

IN THE MEDIUM AND LONG- TERM, STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO
ELIMINATE THE EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT. THESE INCLUDE THE
REPLACING OF LIVESTOCK, THE REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT,
THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SUPPLIES AND THE HALTING OF THE
ENCROACHMENT OF THE DESERT ONTO FORMERLY PRODUCTIVE LAND.

WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY NEEDS WITH PRECISION,
THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT, AS RECOGNIZED BY THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, THAT T

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BAMAKO
BRUSSELS
DAKAR
FORT LAMY
NIAMEY
NOUACHOTT

OUAGADOUGOU

PARIS

GENEVA

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